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Ref. IHC-MM-18/74, dated
18 October 1974

15 November 1974

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[redacted]
Chairman, IHC, USIB

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Dear [redacted]

As I discussed with [redacted] attached is a description of what COINS is all about and a list of the files in the system. With the change of the sponsorship of COINS to the DCI, the present inventory description appears to be alright. As you know, the PMO doesn't have any intelligence files in COINS per-se' and too the files are continually changing. In all probability by the time you go to press with your inventory the list of files currently in COINS will need updating. To do this all you have to do is have your CIA user support people query the system using the query included with the attached list of files. For additional information on a particular file just insert the file acronym in the place of the "(file)" part of the query. Also, we can provide you with a Users Guide on any of the files you may want still further information.

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[redacted]
COINS/Project Manager

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UNCLASSIFIED
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION
WHEN INDICATED ARE REMOVED

Approved For Release 2004/09/23 : CIA-RDP79M00096A000400030001-9

SUBJECT: COINS

TOC DATE: 740101

***** WELCOME TO COINS *****

THE COMMUNITY ON-LINE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM (COINS) WAS BEGUN IN 1965 FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD TO IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AMONG INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MEMBERS. THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE WAS GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING COINS, AND HE IN TURN APPOINTED THE DIRECTOR OF NSA AS THE PROJECT'S EXECUTIVE AGENT. FOR THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE COINS WAS KNOWN AS THE COINS EXPERIMENT. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE COINS EVALUATION GROUP'S WORK IN FEBRUARY 1973, THE WORD 'EXPERIMENT' WAS DROPPED FROM THE COINS LABEL AND THE FUNCTION OF PROJECT EXECUTIVE AGENT WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE DIRECTOR, NSA TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE. PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR COINS HAS BEEN [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] UNDER THE DIRECTION OF [REDACTED] THOSE DESIRING COINS RELATED INFORMATION SHOULD CALL [REDACTED] ON EITHER [REDACTED]

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25X1 THE SECURE SYSTEM OR [REDACTED] ON THE GENERAL USE SYSTEM.

COINS IS A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY COMPUTER-BASED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS THAT HAVE BEEN INTERCONNECTED FOR INTERAGENCY SHARING OF MACHINE FORMATTED FILES. THE SYSTEM HAS EVOLVED AS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT AMONG THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT FORWARD STEP IN THE CONTINUING EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. STARTING FIRST IN THE WASHINGTON VICINITY, COINS HAS GRADUALLY EXTENDED ITS GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA AND HAS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR WORLD-WIDE APPLICATIONS.

COINS ENABLES ON-LINE INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS AT DIA AND THE NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER (NPIC) AND THE REMOTE BATCH PROCESSING SYSTEM AT NSA TO INTERACT THROUGH A COMPUTER DRIVEN 'STORE AND FORWARD' SWITCH OPERATED BY DIA. NETWORK SERVICE IS PROVIDED OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH USER TERMINALS CONNECTED TO EITHER THE DIA, NPIC, OR NSA SYSTEMS. THE COINS NETWORK ALSO INTERFACES WITH THE INTELLIGENCE DATA HANDLING SYSTEM (IDHS) THROUGH THE DIA NETWORK SWITCH TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO USERS SUCH AS THE CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENSE COMMAND (CONAD) AND THE PACIFIC COMMAND (PACOM).

CIA PROVIDES AND MAINTAINS SEVERAL FILES FOR COINS, BUT THESE FILES RESIDE IN THE NSA SYSTEM.

COINS NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS ARE EQUIPPED WITH CRYPTOGRAPHIC DEVICES THAT PERMIT TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION CLASSIFIED UP TO TOP SECRET/SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE/TK. PERSONS HAVING PROPER SECURITY CLEARANCES CAN ACCESS COINS FILES THROUGH TERMINALS IN THEIR OWN AGENCIES.

COINS GIVES USERS IN PARTICIPATING AGENCIES DIRECT ACCESS TO FILES COVERING A BROAD RANGE OF INTELLIGENCE SUBJECTS. THESE FILES ARE MAINTAINED IN THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS OF THE SEVERAL AGENCIES AND ARE ACCESSIBLE TO OTHER AGENCY USERS THROUGH REMOTE ACCESS TERMINALS LOCATED IN THEIR OPERATIONAL AREAS. THIS INTERACTION OF INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS IN THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IMPROVES THE TIMELINESS OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE, ALLOWS GREATER SELECTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE AGENCIES IN BUILDING THEIR OWN INFORMATION FILES, AND PROVIDES CAPABILITIES AND FEATURES NOT HERETOFORE AVAILABLE VIA TRADITIONAL METHODS OF FILE ACCESS.

COINS IS INCREASINGLY USED BY INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS. IT HAS ALLOWED THE DISCONTINUATION OF SOME DAILY REPORTING AND HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ON-LINE, CERTAIN BIBLIOGRAPHIC, ORDER OF BATTLE, AND ACTIVITY FILES THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY DIRECTLY ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY. THUS, COINS IS A DOOR FOR USERS TO OPEN TO A WEALTH OF INFORMATION WHICH SHOULD HELP THEM BECOME BOTH MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE EFFECTIVE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR MISSIONS.

***** CONFIDENTIAL *****

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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE

of the

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Office of the Chairman

IHC-MM-18/74

18 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Distribution

SUBJECT : Inventory of Community Information
Handling Systems

1. The Inventory of Intelligence Data Handling Systems which was last published in July 1972, is being updated and restructured to serve the needs of the Director of Central Intelligence and the Intelligence Community Staff as well as the members of the intelligence community at large. The new version of the Inventory will be updated annually with changes published in a form which will point up new information so that users may readily identify developments of interest to them.

2. An interagency task group composed of analysts and systems personnel from CIA, DIA and the Information Science Center assisted by the IHC Support Staff, prepared an outline for the Inventory publication in which systems will be grouped functionally by whether they are used primarily to:

- a. store and retrieve substantive data;
- b. support intelligence analysis and data manipulation; or
- c. serve for intelligence data communications.

A fourth group of systems, those outside the intelligence community which interface with community systems, has also been set up. (See Attachment 1.)

3. In addition to the brief descriptions of systems, provision is made for presenting descriptions of their component data files and applications software. (See Attachment 2.) Thus, although the new Inventory will be compact in form, it will present an increased amount of data arrayed and indexed to make it accessible to users.

DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASSIFIED
UPON REMOVAL OF
CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENT

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4. The systems, files and programs submitted for inclusion in the Inventory should be those either new in existence or being developed but which are of community interest either because of the contribution they make to handling and manipulating data, or because of the facilities they offer for access to information and to the means for manipulating it. Provision has been made in the file and program descriptions for indicating hardware and system software dependencies only to give an indication of their potential for wider use in the community. This is in accord with the primary objective of the Inventory, which is to provide information on the capabilities available to analysts. The inventory will not provide a comprehensive picture of the use of hardware and system software in the community for computer and communications specialists.

5. It is recognized that information handling systems in the community include the traditional general purpose or special libraries of publications and a number of manual data files as well as the intelligence data systems which are supported by automated devices. The contribution made by automation to community information handling has been enormous and further contributions are anticipated. Such contributions, however, should not be allowed to overshadow the role still played by those long-established conventional reservoirs of information and especially by the information specialists who staff and maintain them. This should be borne in mind in updating and adding to the system descriptions of this Inventory, and in preparing the descriptions of files and programs in the formats provided in Attachment 2.

6. It is requested that the system descriptions contained in Attachment 1 be reviewed by the system sponsors and updated as necessary. Descriptions of additional systems should be provided as appropriate. It is also requested that component files and applications programs of the systems be described in the formats and as per the instructions provided in Attachment 2. In order to permit wide dissemination in the community, it is requested that file and program descriptions be held, if possible, to security classifications no higher than SECRET. It will be noted that the formats are presented on 8" x 14" (legal size) paper to facilitate reproduction locally as required.

7. System updates and file and program descriptions should be returned to the USIB/INC/SS, Room 7C35, CIA Hqs., Wash., D. C. 20505, by 6 January 1975.


Acting Chairman

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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SYSTEM TITLE AND ACRONYM: Consolidated Intelligence Resources Information System (CIRIS).

a. DESCRIPTION: CIRIS is being developed to identify the resources and the interrelationships among: (1) the organizational components in the intelligence community; (2) the functions carried out, and sensor systems used by those organizational components; and (3) the targets or objectives against which these activities are directed. These interrelationships are expressed in terms of dollars and manpower programmed by fiscal years. The data and the language employed tie in with the planning, programming, and budgeting systems in Defense and CIA. Data are obtained from CIA, State and the intelligence programs in DoD whose resources are displayed in connection with the Consolidated Defense Intelligence Program (CDIP). It is used by DCI/IC, Intelligence Program Managers.

b. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: DCI/IC/MPRRD

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